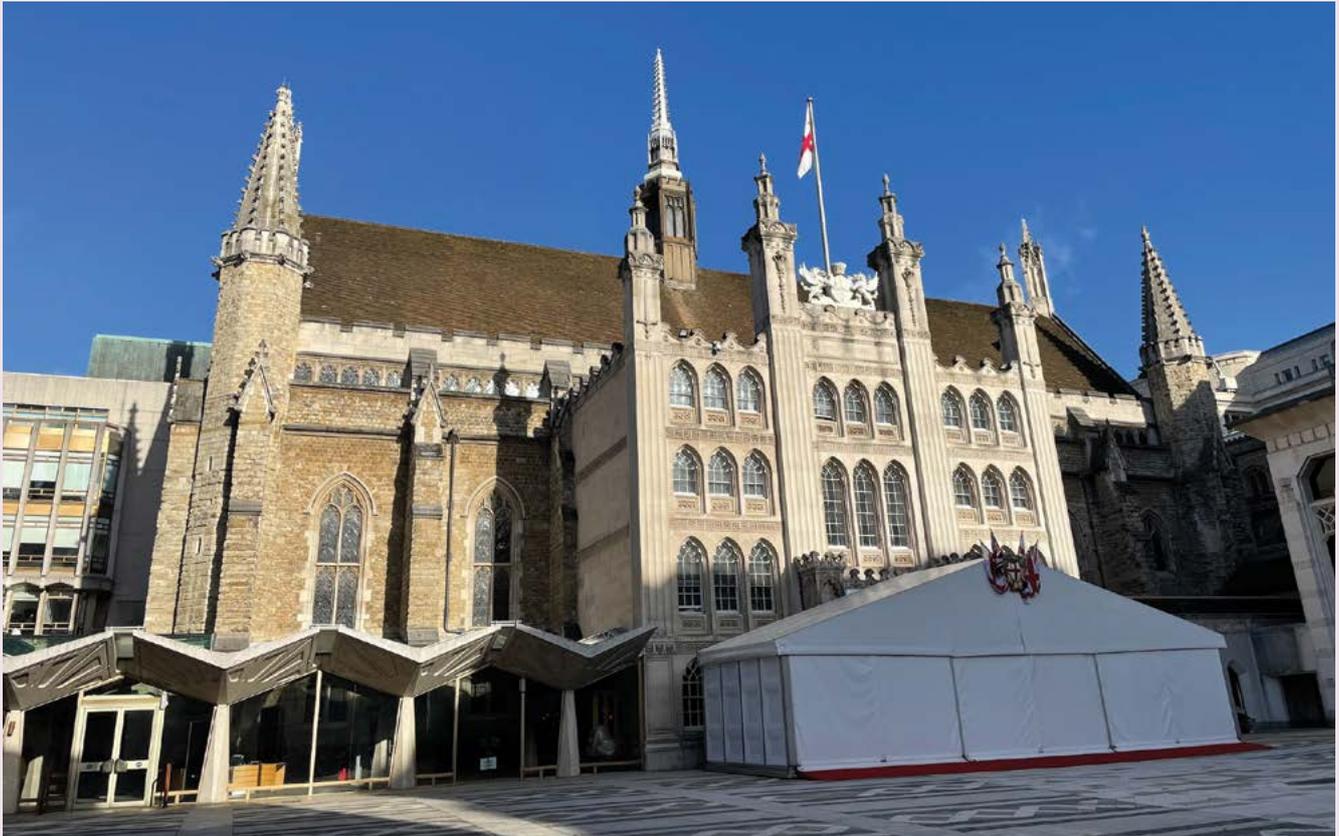




Aldersgate

Governance Review



As you probably know, the City operates a committee system, rather than the more common cabinet system. This works better for an authority that is not organised on a party political basis and provides a greater opportunity for all Members to influence policy. Over time, however, it can lead to policies going to a large number of committees for consideration and, in the City, this has become inefficient and confusing. For this reason it was concluded that the City should engage in a Governance Review. This was initially conducted by Lord Lisvane and he made a range of proposals. Some of these have already been implemented and some others have been considered but not implemented but the main work is ahead. Proposals have now been put forward for the future committee structure to be in place after the upcoming election. It is not radically different from the current structure. Probably the most significant change will be a system to ensure that there is a single lead service committee for any given policy or decision. Decision papers would then go to this lead committee. In some instances papers might still need to go to a corporate committee, e.g., Finance or

Policy and Resources or a sub-committee thereof but the current situation with papers going to many committees would end.

Other proposed changes will directly affect those who live in City owned residences. You may know that the current committee structure for the Barbican consists of the Residential Consultative Committee (RCC), which as the name states is not a decision making committee. It is made up of representatives of each of the house groups on the Estate. The decision making committee is the Barbican Residential Committee (BRC). It consist of several non-resident Members and resident Members. The non-resident Members are elected by the Court of Common Council but the resident Members are appointed by the ward Deputies to places allocated for representatives of Aldersgate and Cripplegate wards. However, Members who live on the Estate are precluded from voting by Section 618 of the

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COVID-19 Booster and Flu Vaccines



The number of cases of COVID-19 in London is rising. But the COVID-19 booster programme can make a real difference. Boosters are available to those 50 years old or older, people who work in health or social care or younger people who have a long-term health condition. The jab boosts waning immunity for those most at risk over the winter period. More than eight million people in the UK have already received their COVID-19 booster vaccine. People will be invited by the NHS when it's their turn. If you have not been contacted within a week of reaching six months since your second vaccine you can call 119 or book online or visit various walk-in sites across London.

Flu is another virus that can be serious. To give people the best

protection over winter, those over 50 years old, and people who have a long-term health condition or are pregnant are eligible for a free flu vaccine and should book an appointment at either their GP practice or their local pharmacy.

The offer of a first and second COVID-19 vaccine remains open to anyone who is eligible, including children aged 12 to 15 years old.

Some of the new variants of concern spread more quickly. This means it is even more important to get both doses of the vaccine or just one dose for those aged between 12 and 17 years old.

www.nhs.uk/wintervaccinations

Free cycle services on offer



The City of London Corporation is calling on residents and workers to take advantage of free cycle services as the Square Mile's buzz returns.

Throughout the pandemic, many people across England took to two wheels as the benefits of fresh air and sustainable travel became even more evident during the months of lockdown.

TfL revealed that cycling levels during the coronavirus pandemic were boosted from 21 per cent of Londoners in 2019/20 to 27 per cent in 2020/21.

Those who live, work or study in the City of London are eligible to receive free cycle training from expert instructors who will tailor the session to the rider's ability – from first-time riders to regular cyclists looking to improve confidence.

Since August last year, a total of 218 adult cycle skills sessions have been undertaken by Pedal Me and Cycle Confident in the City of London. In addition, two Square Mile schools have benefited from school cycle training sessions.

More on the Cycle Confident free training: cycleconfident.com/sponsors/city-of-london/; **the Pedal Me business cargo bike rider training:** pedalme.co.uk/training/

Meet your candidates

By the time you receive this newsletter the deadline for registering to vote in next year's City elections will almost be due – 16 December.

If you are registered you will be able to vote for the City's Common Councillors in March 2022. These elections are held by 'first past the post' and you will have the same number of votes as councillors you are electing, eg three votes in a three-member ward. If there is a vacancy for an Alderman in your ward next year, you will also have one vote in that election.

You will also be invited to attend your ward's Wardmote, a meeting similar to a hustings, the day before the election, 23 March 2022. This will give you the opportunity to meet your candidates and ask them questions. You will be able to vote in your allocated polling station on polling day, 24 March 2022. As with any other election, you can request a postal vote without needing a reason. If you think you might be away from the City or busy on Election Day, you might want to arrange a postal vote that goes to your home or work address. Postal votes are usually dispatched 10 working days before polling day.

Updated information on the wardmotes, their timing and location will appear on the website.

Invitations to the meetings will also be sent to all electors.

If you have any queries regarding the meeting in your Ward please contact the Electoral Services Office on 0800 587 5537, electoralservices@cityoflondon.gov.uk or speakforthecity.com



WORK OR LIVE IN THE CITY?

REGISTER TO VOTE BY 16TH DECEMBER

www.speakforthecity.com

 **SPEAK FOR THE CITY**



The City of London Corporation has mounted a new campaign to support retail, leisure and hospitality businesses as well as cultural attractions by encouraging people back into the Square Mile for work and play.

The "Square Smile" campaign is designed to raise awareness of the benefits of returning to the City and face-to-face interaction as firms increasingly give their staff more flexibility on where they locate through hybrid working. It showcases the City's vibrant offer – ranging from world-class culture, heritage, cuisine, entertainment, retail, architecture and much more.

The campaign – which runs until the beginning of 2022 – targets hybrid workers as well as those who have fully returned to their workplace. The campaign seeks to remind them of all the things they missed during the pandemic, including socialising and enjoying the City's culture and entertainment. Whether it be collaborating with teammates, going for a spontaneous lunch or having the opportunity to go for after work drinks, the City can help to bring people together.

cityoflondon.gov.uk/squaresmile

ASK FOR ANGELA

By telling customers that they can 'Ask for Angela' we're giving them a discreet code word that they can give to staff if they feel unsafe or threatened.

The City of London Police, City of London Corporation and Metropolitan Police Service are working in partnership with Safer Sounds, who are part of the Safer Business Network, and licensed venues to help keep people safe while in the City of London.

The 'Ask for Angela' initiative is being rolled out to bars, clubs and other licensed businesses across the whole of London, including in the City of London. The scheme aims to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability by providing customers with a phrase they can use to get the attention of staff if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Staff can help by reuniting them with a friend, seeing them to a taxi, or by calling venue security and/or the police.

The City of London Police, City of London Corporation and Metropolitan Police Service are working in partnership with Safer Sounds, who are part of the Safer Business Network, and licensed venues to help keep people safe while in the City of London.

Many of the City's bars, clubs and other licensed businesses are getting busier and will continue to do so in the lead up to Christmas. For many people, this could be the first time they have been to a licensed premises during the festive period in two years, due to the pandemic.



Aldersgate

Who We Are



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Committee Appointments:
Culture Heritage & Libraries,
Open Spaces & West Ham Park,
Epping Forest & Commons, Establishment,
Community & Children's Services,
Planning & Transportation,
Barbican Residential Committee, Markets

Committee Appointments:
Policy and Resources, Finance (Deputy Chairman),
Establishment, Barbican Residential Committee, Culture,
Heritage and Libraries, Investment, Audit and Risk
Management, Guildhall School of Music and Drama,
Resource Allocation sub-committee
Freedom Applications Committee (Chairman)

Committee Appointments:
Community and Children's Services (Deputy Chairman),
Finance, Planning and Transportation, Establishment,
Audit and Risk Management, Barbican Residential, City of
London School for Girls, Guildhall School of Music & Drama,
Education Board, Barbican Arts Centre, Digital Services
sub-committee (Chairman), Culture, Heritage and Libraries,
Health and Wellbeing Board

Committee Appointments:
Port Health and Environmental Health Services

Committee Appointments:
Community & Children's Services,
Markets, Port Health and Environmental Health

CONTACT US

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, only want to receive an email notification to download it or are receiving more than one copy per household then please send your details and the name of your ward newsletter to wardnewsletters@cityoflondon.gov.uk and we will amend our database.



We are always happy to talk to workers and residents within the Ward about any issues you may wish to raise. Please contact us if you would like to arrange a meeting.

COMMUNICATING WITH THOSE WHO LIVE AND WORK IN THE CITY OF LONDON

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Housing Act 1985. We can speak and are often able to persuade our colleagues from other wards but it can be challenging. Both resident and non-resident Members have found this less than satisfactory and most (but by no means all) resident Members are supportive of the proposal to eliminate the BRC. The Barbican Association has also supported this proposal.

The social housing Estates are operated through a ring-fenced Housing Revenue Account. Currently, the HRA decisions are made by the Housing Sub-committee of Community and Children's Services (C&CS) or the C&CS committee itself. It is proposed to remove housing from C&CS and place it in a new Grand committee that would also be responsible for the functions of the BRC. It is proposed that the affected wards would have representation on this committee but the exact make up is not known at the time of writing. More importantly, it is not clear if any of the restrictions, beyond Section 618, that the City has placed on the BRC would be placed on this new committee. Your ward Members are working to ensure that these restrictions are not applied. Our MP and

the City are both actively seeking repeal of Section 618 but until this is achieved voting on matters that "relate to land in which [a Member] is beneficially interested" would be precluded. This preclusion is broader than that required by standards and repeal would permit resident Members to vote on matters of general interest to their ward just as councillors do throughout the rest of the country. Given this uncertainty, it is fair to think this change will have little practical effect, at least not in the near future.

The other aspects of the proposal are potentially more interesting. The RCC would continue and is intended to be more persuasive on service charge matters but it could enhance its influence further by developing methods for obtaining the broader views of residents. There would also be a working party to bring together all of the organisations on the Estate. This working party would include resident representatives and would concern itself with the overall Estate. We will be working with the Barbican Association to enhance and implement these proposals. Please let us know your views on these proposed changes.